

Left unstated is the inference which the Examiner apparently invites Applicant to draw that the invention of the claims 27-28 would be allowable over the cited references. Of course, had Applicant elected the invention of Group II, the Examiner would likely transfer the application for examination to a different examiner, who might not share this view.

At any rate, the common technical feature that flows through all of the pending claims, and which provides unity of invention thereto, is the low amount of aluminum present in the composite material. This is reflected either in an explicit recitation that the amount of aluminum is restricted, or in the recitation that the binder or filler which would contain the aluminum is restricted. This restriction on the amount of aluminum limits the reactivity of the fibers (and the composite paper made therefrom) at temperatures above 1100°C.

Accordingly, Applicants respectfully submit that the Examiner's requirement for restriction is erroneous and respectfully request that claims 27-28 be examined along with the elected claims 1-26.

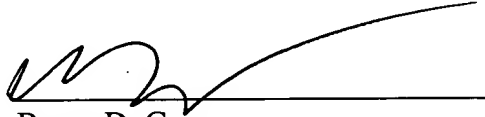
Applicants reserve the right to address the Examiner's opinions on the patentability of claims 1-26 when and if these opinions are presented in a formal rejection of the claims.

An early and favorable action on the merits is earnestly solicited.

U.S. Serial No. 09/762,870
Filed: March 22, 2001
RESPONSE TO RESTRICTION REQUIREMENT

Please charge any fees or credit any overpayment to Deposit Order Account No. 11-0855.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Bruce D. Gray', is written over a horizontal line.

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